



Courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau

# Child Support and You

South Carolina  
Department of Social Services

## Child Support Enforcement Division

A Division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services

### Contact Information

You may contact the branch or unit you need at the address or telephone number listed below. You may also send us an e-mail message at [www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/index.html](mailto:www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/index.html). If you do not know the Regional Office assigned to your case, you may contact our Central Inquiry Unit and they will be able to assist you.

Before contacting us, please be sure to visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](http://www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/faqs.htm) at [www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/faqs.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/faqs.htm).

**Central Inquiry Unit**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Central Inquiry Unit  
P.O. Box 1469  
Columbia, SC 29202-1469  
Telephone: (803) 898-9210

**Financial Services Branch**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Financial Services Branch  
P.O. Box 1469  
Columbia, SC 29202-1469  
Telephone: (803) 898-9210

### REGIONAL OFFICES

**Columbia Region I**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Columbia Region I Office  
240 Stoneridge Dr./Suite 400  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Telephone: (803) 253-7566  
Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun,  
Clarendon, Edgefield, Greenwood,  
Lexington, McCormick, Orangeburg,  
Saluda, York

**Columbia Region II**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Columbia Region II Office  
P.O. Box 1270  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Telephone: (803) 898-9282  
Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee,  
Newberry, Richland, Sumter, Union

**Charleston Region III**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Charleston Region III Office  
3346 Rivers Ave./Suite E  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
Telephone: (843) 953-9700  
Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston,  
Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton,  
Jasper

### Florence Region IV

Child Support Enforcement Division  
Florence Region IV Office  
2120 Jody St./Suite 4  
Florence, SC 29501  
Telephone: (843) 661-4750  
Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence,  
Horry, Marion, Marlboro, Williamsburg

**Greenville Region V**  
Child Support Enforcement Division  
Greenville Region V Office  
714 N. Pleasantburg Dr./Suite 200  
Greenville, SC 29607  
Telephone: (864) 241-1101  
Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville,  
Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg



**Economic and Business Affairs**  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
P.O. Box 1520  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1520  
(803) 737-9067

# Child Support Overview

Any custodial parent (CP) residing in South Carolina, who has physical custody of a child and needs assistance in obtaining child support payments, may apply to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) for services.

CSED will help you locate the non-custodial parent (NCP), establish paternity (legal fatherhood) if needed, establish and enforce child support payments and ask that the NCP provide health insurance if available. Once the NCP has been placed under a child support order, the NCP is responsible to make child support payments through the Family Court and the CSED will work closely with the court to ensure payments are made. When an NCP resides in another state, the state child support agencies work together in establishing and enforcing child support orders. If you already have an order for child support but are not receiving payments, CSED has many tools available to help you with enforcement of your order including contempt proceedings, tax intercept and license revocation.

## The Child Support Process

**How Do I Apply?** Persons receiving assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Medicaid are automatically eligible to receive services from the CSED at no cost. Persons not receiving TANF must complete an application form and pay a nonrefundable \$25 application fee. To request an application, you may contact your local county SCDSS office, the CSED office nearest you, (see addresses and telephone numbers listed in this brochure) or the CSED office in Columbia at (803) 898-9210. The NCP may also apply for services to have paternity (legal fatherhood) established or to have the amount of support they are paying reviewed. The NCP may contact the nearest CSED office or the Columbia office to request an application.

**What About Court Hearings?** When the NCP resides in South Carolina, court hearings are held in the county where the NCP resides. If the NCP lives out of state, in most cases the court hearing will be held in the other state. The custodial parent (CP) would not be required to attend the out-of-state hearing.

**How Long Does It Take to Obtain a Child Support Order?** Upon verification of the NCP's address, the notice is served. At this point, it usually takes less than three months. It may take longer if the NCP lives out of state.

## How is the Amount of Child Support Determined?

The amount of child support will be based on the South Carolina Child Support Guidelines. The guidelines consider the income of both parents, other biological children in the home, other court-ordered child support payments and day care and health insurance costs.

Once the amount of child support is established, the CP or NCP has the right to request that the CSED review the child support order every three years. The review may indicate that an upward or downward modification of child support is warranted. If your child support case is not a SCDSS case, you should contact the Family Court where your child support is paid for advice and/or assistance with a review.



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## What If My Job Status Changes?

Losing a job for whatever reason can leave many individuals feeling anxious and overwhelmed. It can be an uncertain and difficult time and, if you are a single parent, it may be even harder to answer "how will I provide for my family?"

If you, as a gainfully employed single parent, have never received child support or sought the services of the SCDSS CSED, you may want to consider pursuing child support. The CSED can help you during this transition period as you seek new employment.

If you are currently paying child support and your job status is changing, you need to contact your Family Court Office where your child support is paid, or your local SCDSS CSED, to make them aware of your employment status and your ability to pay child support.